

ABSTRACT

A device for preventing closure of a surgically created resection cavity within tissues of the body comprises an insertion member having a distal end for insertion into a surgically created resection cavity and a proximal end which remains outside the resection cavity and a lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends and an inflatable member deployable from the distal end of the insertion member, an inner chamber of the inflatable member being fluidly coupled to the lumen to receive an inflation fluid therefrom so that, when the inflation fluid is supplied to the inflatable member, the inflatable member expands so that an outer surface of the inflatable member contacts the surrounding tissue and moves the surrounding tissue out of the resection cavity. A method of treating tissue surrounding a surgically created resection cavity, comprises the steps of, after a portion of tissue has been surgically removed to create a resection cavity, inserting a distal end of a catheter into the resection cavity and deploying an inflatable element at a desired location within the resection cavity from a distal portion of the catheter in combination with the steps of inflating the inflatable element to contact inner surfaces of the resection cavity and maintain tissue surrounding the resection cavity in a position substantially corresponding to a position of the tissue prior to the creation of the resection cavity to prevent closure of the resection cavity by healing processes during a recovery period and, after the recovery period, treating the tissue surrounding the resection cavity.